Serial No. 09/493,242   2
Docket No. FR919980073US1
(YOR.163)

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

1.   (Currently amended) A file manager provided for locating a file identified by a

path referring to a unit and an identifier, comprising:

        a table for associating said file with a priority list of physical units,

        wherein said physical units store a plurality of versions of said file,

        wherein said table comprises a plurality of associations of a same file logical path

name and a file name in a one-to-one correspondence with a plurality of physical units,

~~and~~

        wherein each of said plurality of associations comprises an association of a unique

version of said file having said same file logical path name and said file name such that

each of said stored plurality of versions of said file are not duplicated, and

        <u>wherein said priority list of physical units is prioritized according to said plurality</u>

<u>of versions of said file based on at least one of a least amount of malfunctions in said</u>

<u>versions, a least bugged version of said versions, an availability of said versions, a date of</u>

<u>said versions, and a least protection of said version against at least one of an unprotected</u>

<u>read, an execute, and a write operation.</u>

2.   (Original) A file manager according to claim 1, further comprising a unit for

modifying said priority list.

3.   (Original) A file manager according to claim 1, wherein said table also defines

attributes for each item of said priority list.

Serial No. 09/493,242   3
Docket No. FR919980073US1
(YOR.163)

4.   (Original) A file manager according to claim 2, wherein said table also defines

attributes for each item of said priority list.

5.   (Original) A file manager according to claim 3, wherein said table defines for said

file a physical unit with a write attribute that differs from a physical unit with a read

attribute.

6.   (Original) A file manager according to claim 3, further comprising a unit for

modifying said attributes.

7.   (Original) A file manager according to claim 4, further comprising a unit for

modifying said attributes.

8.   (Original) A controller of peripheral devices in a computer system, comprising a

file manager according to claim 1.

9.   (Original) An operating system of a computer system, comprising a file manager

according to claim 1.

10.   (Original) A medium comprising computer readable instructions for carrying out

a file manager according to claim 1.

Serial No. 09/493,242   4
Docket No. FR919980073US1
(YOR.163)

11.   (Currently amended) A file manager for locating a file, comprising:

a table for associating said file with a priority list of physical units,

wherein said file is identified by a path referring to a logical unit and an identifier,

wherein said physical units store a plurality of versions of said file,

wherein said table comprises a plurality of associations of a same file logical path

name and a file name in a one-to-one correspondence with a plurality of physical units,

~~and~~

wherein each of said plurality of associations comprises an association of a unique

version of said file having said same file logical path name and said file name such that

each of said stored plurality of versions of said file are not duplicated, and

wherein said priority list of physical units is prioritized according to said plurality

of versions of said file based on at least one of a least amount of malfunctions in said

versions, a least bugged version of said versions, an availability of said versions, a date of

said versions, and a least protection of said version against at least one of an unprotected

read, an execute, and a write operation.

12.   (Original) The file manager of claim 11, wherein a plurality of versions of said

file with a common logical identification are savable.

13.   (Original) The file manager of claim 12, further comprising a modifying unit for

modifying the priority list, thereby to access any of said plurality of versions.

Serial No. 09/493,242   5
Docket No. FR919980073US1
(YOR.163)

14.   (Currently amended) A method for locating a file identified by a path referring to

a logical unit and an identifier, comprising:

        associating, in a file manager having a table, said file with a priority list of

physical units,

        wherein said physical units store a plurality of versions of said file,

        wherein said table comprises a plurality of associations of a same file logical path

name and a file name in a one-to-one correspondence with a plurality of physical units,

and

        wherein each of said plurality of associations comprises an association of a unique

version of said file having said same file logical path name and said file name such that

each of said stored plurality of versions of said file are not duplicated, and

        wherein said priority list of physical units is prioritized according to said plurality

of versions of said file based on at least one of a least amount of malfunctions in said

versions, a least bugged version of said versions, an availability of said versions, a date of

said versions, and a least protection of said version against at least one of an unprotected

read, an execute, and a write operation.

15.   (Previously presented) The file manager, as claimed in claim 1, wherein when a

second request for a file logical path name and a file name is the same as a first request,

said file manager associates a physical unit listed on said priority list to said file name of

said second request different from a physical unit associated with a file name of said first

request.

Serial No. 09/493,242   6
Docket No. FR919980073US1
(YOR.163)

16.   (Canceled).

17.   (Previously presented) The file manager, as claimed in claim 1, wherein said file

manager selectively accesses a first association of a same file logical path name and a file

name established prior to a second association of a same file logical path name and a file

name.

18.   (Previously presented) The file manager, as claimed in claim 1, wherein said file

manager routes a subsequent request to access a same file logical path name and a same

file name as a previous request to a different version of said file logical path name and

said file name on a different physical unit.

19.   (Previously presented) The file manager, as claimed in claim 1, wherein said file

manager establishes and maintains said priority list of physical units.

20.   (Previously presented) The file manager, as claimed in claim 1, wherein each of

said physical units holds a different version of said file.

21.   (Previously presented) The file manager according to claim 1, wherein each of

said unique versions of said file is associated with a different priority from said priority

list.

Serial No. 09/493,242   7
Docket No. FR919980073US1
(YOR.163)

22.   (Previously presented) The file manager of claim 1, wherein files identified by the

same file logical path name and file name and associated with different physical units

comprise different attributes.

23.   (Previously presented) The method of claim 14, further comprising:

selecting one of said plurality of versions of said file based on said priority list.

24.   (Previously presented) The method of claim 23, further comprising:

selecting another of said plurality of versions of said file based on said priority list

when said one of said plurality of versions of said file is not available.

25.   (Previously presented) The method of claim 23, further comprising:

selecting another of said plurality of versions of said file based on said priority list

when said one of said plurality of versions of said file malfunctions.

26.   (Previously presented) The method of claim 14, further comprising:

determining equivalence of one of said plurality of versions of said file to another

of said plurality of versions of said file.

27.   (Previously presented) The method of claim 26, wherein said determining

equivalence comprises comparing at least one of sizes and parities of said one of said

plurality of versions of said file and another of said plurality of versions of said file.

Serial No. 09/493,242   8
Docket No. FR919980073US1
(YOR.163)

28.   (Previously presented) The method of claim 26, wherein said determining

equivalence comprises determining whether a problem has occurred with one of said

plurality of versions of said file during a predetermined period of time.

29.   (Previously presented) The method of claim 26, further comprising:

        removing a corresponding physical unit of said one of said plurality of versions of

said file from said priority list of physical units when said one of said plurality of

versions of said file is determined to be equivalent to another of said plurality of versions

of said file.

30.   (Previously presented) The method of claim 29, further comprising:

        removing said one of said plurality of versions of said file from said

corresponding physical unit.

31.   (Currently amended) A file manager for locating a file identified by a path

referring to a logical unit and an identifier, comprising:

        means for associating said file with a priority list of physical units,

                wherein said physical units store a plurality of versions of said file,

                wherein said means for associating comprises a plurality of associations of

a same file logical path name and a file name in a one-to-one correspondence with a

plurality of physical units, and

Serial No. 09/493,242   9
Docket No. FR919980073US1
(YOR.163)

wherein each of said plurality of associations comprises an association of

a unique version of said file having said same file logical path name and said file name;

and

means for selecting one of said plurality of versions of said file based on said

priority list of physical units,

wherein said priority list of physical units is prioritized according to said

plurality of versions of said file based on at least one of a least amount of malfunctions in

said versions, a least bugged version of said versions, an availability of said versions, a

date of said versions, and a least protection of said version against at least one of an

unprotected read, an execute, and a write operation.

32.   (Currently amended) A file manager comprising:

a table comprising an association of at least one file with a priority list of a

plurality of physical units corresponding to a plurality of versions of said at least one file,

said at least one file being identified by a logical path and a name,

wherein a unique version of said at least one file is retrievable, based on said

logical path and said name, from one of said plurality of physical units according to a

priority order of said priority list, and

wherein said priority list of physical units is prioritized according to said plurality

of versions of said file based on at least one of a least amount of malfunctions in said

versions, a least bugged version of said versions, an availability of said versions, a date of

said versions, and a least protection of said version against at least one of an unprotected

read, an execute, and a write operation.

Serial No. 09/493,242   10
Docket No. FR919980073US1
(YOR.163)

33.   (Previously presented) The file manager, as claimed in claim 1, wherein said

priority list includes names of said physical units.

34.   (Previously presented) The file manager, as claimed in claim 1, wherein said

priority list includes only names of said physical units.

35.   (Previously presented) The file manager, as claimed in claim 1, wherein locating

said file is performed in a single access of said table.

36.   (Previously presented) The file manager, as claimed in claim 1, wherein at least

one of adding a new file name to the priority list and modifying said file name is

performed in a single access of said table.

37.   (Canceled).